

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08828 261605Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 CPR-01 SY-05 IOE-00 /061 W

-----029204 261711Z /53

P R 261431Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2633

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 8828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS DEPARTS FOR US

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS DEPARTED ATHENS SEPT 24 FOR NEW YORK TO ATTEND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WHILE HE IS IN NEW YORK BITSIOS ALSO EXPECTS TO HAVE A SERIES OF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS, INCLUDING SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER CAGLAYANGIL. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, BITSIOS INDICATED THAT SINCE ELECTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN PROCLAIMED, HIS DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK WITH VARIOUS FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE OF AN INFORMATIVE, RATHER THAN A SUBSTANTIVE, NATURE. ALTHOUGH, HE SAID, HE WOULD, OF COURSE, PROMOTE THE POSITIONS OF THE GOG AND SEEK TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR THEM, THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS MEANT HE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENTS IN NEW YORK, LEAVING THAT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO BE FORMED AFTER THE NOV. 20 ELECTIONS.

2. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT HIS MEETING WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08828 261605Z

THE SECRETARY, BITSIOS SIAD, "THE SUBJECT OF THE NEW AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO ATHENS, MR. SCHAUFEELE, WILL BE DISCUSSED... AS HAS ALREADY BEEN AGREED. AND DURING THIS DISCUSSION I WILL PRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT ON THE SUBJECT." IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION CONCERNING HIS MEETING WITH THE TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER, BITSIOS REPLIED, "WE ARE

INTERESTED IN LEARNING THE INTENTIONS OF THE NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT ON THE SUBJECTS WHICH WE CONFRONT WITH TURKEY, SUCH AS THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND OTHER BILATERAL QUESTIONS."

3. IN A FRONT PAGE STORY ON SUNDAY, SEPT 25, LIBERAL OPPOSITION TO VIMA WRITES THAT THE US-GREEK DCA AND AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S STATUS WILL BE THE PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS' DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY VANCE. THE ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT, BASED ON "ABSOLUTELY VERIFIED INFORMATION", THE GOG HAS ALREADY ADVISED THE USG IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO POSTPONE SIGNATURE OF THE DCA IN VIEW OF THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD IN GREECE. THE AMERICANS, THE STORY CONTINUED, "SHOWED UNDERSTANDING" AND ACCEPTED THE GREEK REQUEST, ALTHOUGH THEY INSISTED THE AGREEMENT BE SIGNED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, THE GOG GAVE AS ITS REASONS FOR REQUESTING THIS POSTPONEMENT ITS DESIRE TO PREVENT THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT FROM BECOMING A CAMPAIGN ISSUED, WHICH WOULD HEIGHTEN ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS IN THE COUNTRY AGAIN.

4. AT THE SAME TIME, THE STORY GOES ON, THE POSSIBILITY THAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE WILL COME TO GREECE IS CONSIDERED UNLIKELY. "ANY 'DEVELOPMENT' CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 08828 261605Z

IN THE ISSUE, WHICH WOULD PROVOKE IMMEDIATE REACTIONS BY PUBLIC OPINION AND GIVE THE OPPOSITION PARTIES THE EXCUSE TO ACCUSE THE GOVERNMENT OF GIVING IN TO AMERICAN PRESSURES, IS COMPLETELY EXCLUDED FROM THE GREEK SIDE DURING THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD." THE STORY THEN ALLEGES THAT THE EMBASSY HERE HAS BEEN CONVINCED THAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S COMING TO ATHENS WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF US-GREEK RELATIONS. (COMMENT: WE IMMEDIATELY CALLED POLITICAL EDITOR JOHN KARTALIS, WHO WROTE THE STORY, TO QUESTION HIM ON THIS ALLEGATION. KARTALIS ADMITTED THAT HE DID NOT GET THE INFORMATION FOR HIS STORY FROM AMERICAN SOURCES. THOUGH, HE SAID, HE COULD NOT REVEAL HIS SOURCES, HE COULD REVEAL THA THE INFORMATION CAME FROM CONTACTS HE HAS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.)

5.

5. A DESPATCH FROM TO VIMA NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT EFSTATHIADES FOLLOWS THIS ARTICLE. EFSTATHIADES

REPORTS THAT INDICATIONS IN WASHINGTON ARE THAT THERE IS "NO SUCH BRACKETS SCHAUFLE CLOSE BRACKETS ISSUE." IN WASHINGTON, HE CONTINUEE, THEY SAY IT IS ATHENS WHICH "SAYS THE MATTER WILL CONCERN THE TWO MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS" WHEN THEY MEET. ACCORDING TO INFORMED CIRCLES, EFSTATHIADES REPORTS, MR. SCHAUFLE "IS ALWAYS AMBASSADOR TO ATHENS" AND HE WILL GO THERE AS SOON AS GREECE RAISES ITS OBJECTIONS.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE HAD NO QUESTIONS ON THE TO VIMA STORY NOR HAS IT BEEN PICKED UP, AS YET AT LEAST, BY ANY OTHER PAPER TODAY. ONLY TA NEA (TO VIMA'S SISTER PAPER) CARRIES THE EFSTATHIADES CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ATHENS 08828 261605Z

STORY FROM NEW YORK.
MILLS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS08828
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770349-1245
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770924/aaaaatsj.tel
Line Count: 138
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cac52a3e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1140487
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS DEPARTS FOR US
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, GR, US, UNGA, (BITSIOS, DIMITRIOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cac52a3e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009